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UNCLAS BRATISLAVA 000247

SIPDIS

PASS TO EUR/ACE EILEEN SMITH AND JOHN MCKANE

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [EAID](#) [ECON](#) [KPAO](#) [LO](#)

SUBJECT: EMBASSY BRATISLAVA RESPONSE TO CONGRESSIONAL REQUEST FOR STATE DEPARTMENT DOCUMENTS

REF: SECSTATE 40264

¶1. Post is forwarding documentation relating to the following cultural grants:

-- PAS covered the cost of U.S. visa fees for recipients of the Open Society Foundation's (OSF) high school student essay competition in 2003 and 2004. These students attended high schools in the U.S. for one year. (Note: 1000 USD total fees for 10 students)

-- PAS made cultural grants for the years 2002-2003 to "The Center for Contemporary Arts," an arts NGO that was originated by the Open Society Foundation, to support American content/speakers in three different art events. Total grant was approximately 1825 USD.

-- The CzechoSlovak Genealogical Society based in the U.S. is carrying out a nation-wide student essay contest in Slovakia about family history ties to the U.S. OSF was managing this contest for the CzechoSlovak Genealogical Society, and PAS made a grant of 2,500 USD in 2004 to OSF to cover the costs of this year-long project.

-- The handwritten log in PAS for grants also shows two grants made in April, 2000 to OSF for "The Balkan Project" including the Slovak Balkan Partnership and the Regional Experience Exchange. The grants totaled 20,222 and 20,383 USD respectively. No further documentation regarding these grants exists at Post.

¶2. Post is forwarding documentation relating to the following SEED grants:

-- Liptov Development Council, 6/27/00, Project: Communication and Interactive Community Planning - website development

-- Civic Association Initiatives of Martin, 3/28/01, Project: Community Center

-- Association of Local TV stations, Martin 3/29/01, Project: Third Workshop for Local TV

-- Association of Local TV stations, Bratislava 3/05/02, Project: Accession of Slovak Republic into EU and NATO - Role of local TV stations

-- Education Center for non-profit organizations, 5/06/02, Project: Training Blocks for NGO management

-- Memo 98 - Media Monitoring, 9/04/02, Project: Election Information Service in support of democratic elections

-- Gemma 93 Civic Association, 9/04/02, "The Second Step - the Way for Slovakia" in support of democratic elections

-- Association of Local TV stations, 2/25/03, "Workshop 2003"

-- People in Peril, 5/19/03, "Conflict areas in the world - danger to international security"

-- Alliance for Fair Play, 5/19/03, Project: Complex Reform of Financing of Political Parties (Strengthening civil society by disclosing information about illicit practices in financing political parties and conflicts of interest)

-- New Way Civic Association, 1/08/04, "Roma Community Boards"

-- First Slovak NonProfit Service Center, 1/08/04, Project: Public Awareness Campaign on NGO support - One percent for a better life

-- Milan Simecka Foundation, 1/08/04, "Community Development as a Key Element of Social Inclusion of Roma"

-- The Club of Roma Women, 1/16/04, "Second Chances Project"

-- Slovak Helsinki Committee, 1/16/04, "Monitoring of Prison Conditions of Roma in Slovakia"

¶3. The USAID program in Slovakia officially closed on

September 30, 2000. As part of the official close-out, a few projects were continued as post-presence activity. The final close-out occurred on March 31, 2003. All documents were retired and forwarded to USAID in Washington, DC either on or before March 31, 2003. Post does not maintain any documents regarding USAID. However, Post has a short inventory for the boxes of documents shipped to Washington DC and covering the period May 30, 2000 to March 31, 2003. A copy of the inventory will be forwarded with all other responsive documents. In addition, Post has one spreadsheet outlining the 2002 pre-election project funding provided by USAID

through subgrants to Freedom House and Ekopolis. These projects were co-funded by Soros or affiliated organizations. The spreadsheet will also be forwarded with all other responsive documents.

THAYER

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